

Jordan Times

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Responsible Editor: MOHAMMAD AMAD
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Senior Editor: MAAZ D. SHUKAYR

Editorial and advertising offices:
 JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 67171-2-3-4
Tlx: 21497 Al Rai JO
Cables: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan.
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GUEST EDITORIAL

Wishful prophecy

A STRANGE prophecy emerged from a seminar organised recently by the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Tel Aviv.

The participants -- and representatives of the American embassy in Israel were prominent among them -- came to the conclusion that "the year 1980 will be one of unrest for the majority of Arab countries."

The prophecy has two dimensions. The first is its being a species of wishful thinking on the part of the Zionists and their allies in the American administration, who realise that the continued illegal occupation of Arab lands remains secure as long as the Arab World is preoccupied with its own internal troubles.

The second dimension is more sinister. The Israeli analysts, together with the American ones present, are part and parcel of the Zionist planning apparatus. For them to "predict" troubles somewhere in the world means they know trouble is being planned and carefully nurtured, and that the plans are due to find implementation later this year.

On the part of Israel, this is natural. But the recent signs are that some members of official American circles are being drawn into Israeli designs, and that careful "leaks" are being placed in the American media about the problems in this or that Arab country -- the richer countries mostly.

The existence of a massive Zionist propaganda push, to counter Israel's growing isolation on the international scene, is no longer a matter of dispute. Its aims, as evidenced in the growing campaign of slander and disinformation in the American and Western media, are twofold. The first to discredit the Arab countries and governments opposed to the Camp David agreements; the second to intimidate those in public life in the West who are deemed inimical to Zionist designs.

-- From the Arab News, Jeddah.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: Right from the outset, Jordan warned of the dangers of Israeli settlement policies. It was the first to expose this policy to the world and first to call for its condemnation.

As we see now, the settlement operations have been the backbone of Israeli policy, since the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Even now that policy is threatening the city of Hebron despite the strong denunciation by the world community, represented by the recent U.N. Security Council resolution. The European Community is now showing obvious sympathy to Palestinian national rights. This is due to the Arab solidarity that has developed during the past year.

We say, therefore, that the achievement of increased Arab solidarity and Arab strength are sure methods of encouraging the international community, particularly Europe to take the Palestinian issue back to its proper forum, namely the United Nations. **AL DUSTOUR:** New York State, the stronghold of Zionist influence in the United States, settled its account on Wednesday with U.S. President Jimmy Carter when it voted for his opponent Senator Edward Kennedy. The unlimited support President Carter had extended to Israel and all that he has done for it did not succeed in convincing American Jews of his sincere allegiance to Israel. They won't accept from him, or from any other American president, less than an absolute commitment to the Israeli viewpoint in all matters.

But is the defeat of President Carter in New York due to the fact that majority of Jews voted for his opponent, or are there other reasons connected with his domestic policy which tipped the balance in favour of Senator Kennedy? We wonder what President Carter's reaction will be towards the behaviour of the Jewish community in New York? This is their warning to him not to put pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin when he meets him next month to discuss the autonomy talks and Israeli settlement policy!

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibition

The French Cultural Centre presents an exhibition of photos and posters on "Advanced Technology" in France. The exhibition can be visited during regular hours until the end of the month.

GOT SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND???

LET THE JORDAN TIMES HEAR ABOUT IT
 WRITE TO P.O. BOX 6710

Unless \$15.5 m made available

UNRWA will stop financing all its schools in Jordan, Syria

UNITED NATIONS, March 27 (Agencies) -- The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said today it would have to stop financing schools in Jordan and Syria from Aug. 1 unless it received \$15.5 million in additional contributions by the end of June.

UNRWA's Commissioner-General, Olof Rydbeck, told a press conference that the agency had budgeted expenses this year of \$211.5 million and an anticipated revenue of only \$155.2 million, leaving \$56.3 million deficit.

Mr. Rydbeck, who served at one time as Sweden's U.N. representative, said there was great reluctance to cut UNRWA's education services, but a decision had to be made soon because of the need to give notice to teachers and other staff.

Intensive efforts were being made to raise additional donations to close the budget gap, he said.

But if, by the end of June, an extra \$15.5 million had not been obtained to run schools in Jordan and Syria from Aug. 1 until the end of the year, "the schools...

would not necessarily have to be closed," but the financing by UNRWA would have to stop.

Mr. Rydbeck said an additional \$16 million were needed for staff salaries, hit by inflation, while further contributions were needed to restore cuts in the refugees' rations.

He said the agency, which assisted 1.8 million registered refugees, had a staff of 16,500.

Of the \$56.3 million still lacking, UNRWA would need \$15.4 million just to keep intact until the end of 1980 its education system of 627 schools and 11,000 teachers serving 350,000 Palestinian refugee children, he added.

Rather than withdraw financial support from UNRWA junior secondary schools throughout UNRWA's area of operations (Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip as well as Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic), which had appeared necessary at one point in 1979, Mr. Rydbeck said he had decided after careful consideration that it was a less undesirable course if action were confined to UNRWA schools



Mr. Olof Rydbeck (elementary and junior secondary) in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic only.

Unless sufficient additional income became available, all UNRWA schools in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic would cease to be financed by UNRWA from Aug. 1 this year. For administrative reasons this decision would have to be taken no later than in June.

If the second course of withdrawing support from the junior

secondary cycle in all of UNRWA's five fields of operation were followed, it would be necessary to withdraw as early as April 30, and a decision to this effect would already have had to be taken before the end of this month.

The first course would permit an equal saving and would give governments an extra two months in which to contribute enough money to keep all UNRWA schools open until the end of 1980.

"I am therefore appealing to all member states of the United Nations to pledge additional voluntary contributions speedily to UNRWA," Mr. Rydbeck said. "Failure to provide funds for our schools in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic is likely to have the gravest repercussions in the area, and I am doing everything possible in my contacts with governments to explain just how desperate the situation is."

There are 133,000 children in UNRWA schools in Jordan and 45,000 in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Royal Jordanian Institute of Fine Arts: The brave dream that almost came true

By Fawzia Mai
 Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN -- The signpost that formerly read "Royal Theatre" in front of that modern piece of architecture near the Sports City has recently been replaced by a more decorative but less imposing one bearing the inscription "Jordan Royal Cultural Centre".

Plans for launching such a centre coincide with growing demand for more cultural activities. The establishment of a royal cultural centre is the final episode of a series of efforts by many enthusiasts to set up some kind of local centre for such activities. Among them, and perhaps the one that came nearest to the realisation of this dream, was the "Royal Jordanian Institute of Fine Arts".

Surprising as it may seem, plans for the Royal Jordanian Institute of Fine Arts comprised of a music conservatory, an arts centre, an architecture and decoration department, a cinema and drama section and a sculpture and commercial arts section. This was ambitious indeed, and this ambition was one of the prime factors that brought the institute down.

Founded in 1969, the Royal Jordanian Institute of Fine Arts was frozen by 1971. It still exists in name, though it has totally arrested its activities.

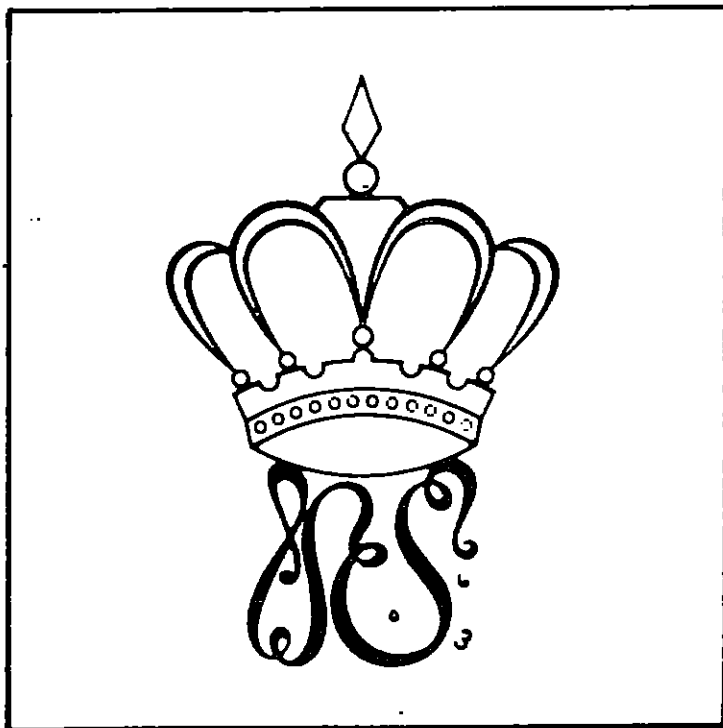
The idea for the institute began with a small group of people educated abroad. Feeling at the time the lack of socio-cultural activities in Jordan, they decided there was a need for some kind of centre devoted to cultural and artistic activities. These people, according to a brochure put out by the institute, constituted the founding members. They included such personalities as Her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al Hussein (president), Mr. Atallah Duwawani (chairman), Mrs. Raymond Hanna Nasr (vice-chairman), Mr. Mumdouh Bisharat (secretary), Mr. Fawwaz Sharaf (secretary), Dr. Jean Kiyaleh (treasurer), and father of Jordan's only violinist of international standard Habib Kiyaleh). Her Highness Princess Wajdan Aly (member, and also a well-known artist), Mrs. Janet

Shami and others.

The institute's aim was to "not only advance the influence of the fine arts in Jordan and promote local talents and creativity, but also to help develop local thought and act as a catalyst to revitalise the entire community."

The booklet also reviewed the state of culture in Jordan at the time and the causes of its stag-

socio-economic class and professionals being a heterogeneous group with diverse educational backgrounds from all over the world, but nevertheless bound by social customs and family traditions "where our true heritage might have proved an ideal background for them to pioneer a social and economic progress programme."



The insignia of the Royal Jordanian Institute of Fine Arts, designed by Princess Wajdan Aly

nation, which were mainly attributed to history.

It also stressed the importance of fine arts in development, which it said should be "both qualitative and quantitative." Having reviewed the factors that led to the lack of art instruction, it concludes that these "render Jordan, and Amman in particular, a dried up uninspired Muse."

Pinpointing the causes of the Muse's lack of inspiration, the booklet mentioned the lack of recreational areas, such as parks, forests, zoos; the absence of a movie industry; schools lacking facilities for extra-curricular programmes; people from the higher

The institute's plans, described as "over ambitious" by Mr. Atallah Duwawani, the former chairman of the board of founders, included: promoting and guiding further instruction in the fine arts in schools; building a centre for teaching courses in the arts and offering recognised degrees; building an all-purpose auditorium and cultural centre which would group such activities as opera, concerts and drama; adopting the existing conservatory of music; building a crafts centre or *artisanat* that would promote, encourage and develop the refined crafts and the commercial, industrial and decorative arts; and

sponsoring the interchange of art between Jordan and abroad.

Plans and administrative divisions for the centre were drawn up, the approximate preliminary costs were estimated at JD 173,000, and the founders decided to invite other people to share in their efforts "that shall always strive and never weary of seeking."

The first efforts materialised in a continuous series of cultural activities. Up to today, Amman residents still remember the exhibition of old ancient Jordanian weaponry held at the British Council, the plays staged at Jerash by the Old Vic specially brought in from London, the tap dancing and costumes of Spanish dancers, the local concerts and exhibitions, the puppet shows by Mrs. Janet Shami and her children, indeed the institute seemed to be a popular and successful organisation. So why did it freeze suddenly?

Architect Atallah Duwawani offered an analysis of the reasons to the Jordan Times: "None of us was experienced in this kind of work and we made many mistakes. The two most vital ones were first that we included such imposing personalities that this frightened away many people who would have otherwise joined the institute. Secondly, our plans were too ambitious, and we started sponsoring numerous activities before building ourselves up first."

Besides, all the free-of-charge concerts and exhibitions did not bring in any financial benefits for the institute. Above all, arguments and disagreements developed among members," he said.

With no funds and no members the board had no real other choice but to order a freeze to the institute's operations.

The original decision in fact stipulated that the freeze should last till the idea became more accepted among the general public, or until other people came up with a similar idea, in which case the former institute would back them up. "At least," sighs Mr. Duwawani, "we feel we have done something in starting an interest in the arts."

Jordan Weekly Calendar

(Week of March 28 - April 3)

EXHIBITIONS

CONTINUING: The photo and poster exhibition on "Advanced Technology" in France continues until the end of the month at French Cultural Centre. Open during regular hours.

MONDAY, March 31: The Department of Culture and Art cooperation with the Embassy of India, presents an exhibition commemorating the 15th century of the Hijra on Islamic architecture in India. The exhibition opens officially at 5:30 p.m., open to the public from Tuesday, April 1 during regular hours at the Art Gallery, Ministry of Culture and Youth. The exhibition continues until April 6.

*** The Goethe Institute, in cooperation with the Department of Culture and Arts, presents an exhibition of paintings, drawings, prints, ceramics and sculpture by the students of the Fine Arts Centre. The opening is at 5:00 p.m., and the exhibition remains display during regular hours until April 5.

SUNDAY, March 30: The Jordan Intercontinental Hotel presents a photo exhibition of the latest French fashions. The exhibition opens at 6:00 p.m.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

Continuing the series of documentaries showing at the Fr Cultural Centre concurrently with the exhibition on advanced technology, the centre presents the following films on engineering:

SATURDAY, March 29: Starting at 5:30 p.m., "Ouvrages" "L'Industrie française des matériels de génie civil."

Labour office for occupied territories set up in Amman

AMMAN, March 27 (JT)--A permanent general secretariat of labour for workers in the occupied Arab territories has been set up in Amman. The Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, was quoted as saying today.

He said the secretariat, which is expected to start functioning in May 1980, will look after the affairs of Arab labourers, study their conditions and follow up cases involving Arab labourers suffering from unjust Israeli measures.

The office will operate in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and the Arab-Labour Organisation. Dr. Abdul Jabbar said in an interview with the local press.

The general secretariat was formed as a result of joining the subject of the occupied Arab workers under Israeli during an Arab labour conference held in Baghdad recently. The secretariat will be Amman because of its direct link with labour West Bank.

The office will also reports to the Arab Organisation which will raise the issue at the national level, Dr. Abdul said.

He called on Arab labourers to grant more aid to the labourers in the occupied territories to enable them to withstand the oppressive measures and drive them out of their homes.

Local News Brief

AMMAN, March 27 (JNA)--A delegation led by the head international section of the Soviet committee supervising preparations for the 1980 Moscow Olympics will arrive here on Tuesday for a Jordan lasting several days. He will hold talks with officials of the Ministry of Culture and Youth and the Youth Organisation of the Ministry of Education. The delegation is on a tour of several Middle East countries which will participate in the June 1980 Olympics.

AMMAN, March 27 (JT)--The Housing Corporation today signed a contract with a local contracting firm, Marar Construction Engineering Company, for the construction of a housing project in Karak. The project, for the building of 90 flats in three buildings, will cost JD 462,000, the corporation's director Mr. Hamdallah Nabulsi, announced here. He said the job should complete the project in 25 months and will commence next month.

AMMAN, March 27 (JNA)--The Housing Bank today announced profits of JD 2.31 million for 1979 against JD 1.62 million previous year. A spokesman for the bank said the management distribute dividends of nine per cent or JD 875,000 to shareholders while JD 1,255,000 will go into the bank's reserves.

AMMAN, March 27 (JT)--The Development Bank Municipalities and Village Councils last week granted loans to JD 431,940 to 20 municipal and village councils around the country according to the bank's director, Mr. Hajem Al Tal. One borrower was Amman Municipality, which got JD 200,000 to improve public services.

AMMAN, March 27 (JT)--Six major Jordanian credit institutions last year granted loans totalling JD 131.55 million to local banks. The Central Bank announced yesterday. It said loans granted by the Development Bank for Municipalities and Village Councils, the Industrial Development Bank, the Housing Corporation, the Agricultural Bank, the Agricultural Credit Corporation and the Cooperative Organisation went to finance a number of industrial and agricultural projects in Jordan.

AMMAN, March 27 (JNA)--The Secretary General of the Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Dr. Fakhri Qaddouri, returned Amman today at the end of a tour that took him to Tunisia, Arabia and Iraq where he held talks with officials on Arab economic affairs. Dr. Qaddouri also visited Geneva where he signed a memorandum of economic cooperation between CAEU and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He said he held a press conference at the CAEU headquarters in Amman Saturday to speak the outcome of this tour.

AMMAN, March 27 (JNA)--The Jordan Cooperative Organisation will take part in a conference which opens in Baghdad Saturday solidarity with the people and farmers in occupied Palestine. T. of Jordan's delegation, Mr. Yusuf Nawayseh, said that his delegation will present a report to the conference outlining the conditions of farmers under Israeli rule and Israel's attempts to confiscate territory for establishing settlements. Mr. Nawayseh is expected to leave for the six-day conference tomorrow.

AMMAN, March 27 (JNA)--Second semester mid-term exams ended today. A spokesman for the Ministry of Education said that government schools will be closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday and will reopen on Tuesday.

Continued from page 1

Buses

The cabinet decision to establish the first authorised Jewish presence inside a West Bank city was supported by only eight of the cabinet's 18 ministers and faces strong opposition with Mr. Begin's own Likud party.

The Likud leadership is attempting to replace several committee members opposing the Hebron action with deputies who will support it. The opposition labour party also wants to replace several of its members who may be absent for the vote to ensure the most possible "no" votes.

Meanwhile, Arab protests against the Hebron decision continued.

At Al Birah, north of Jerusalem, Arab mayors proclaimed that they would oppose the cabinet decision "in every way possible."

The mayors had planned to gather in Hebron, but shifted the

protest meeting to Al Birah after troops set up roadblocks outside Hebron to screen travellers into the city. A military spokesman said the army would prevent Palestinian activists from entering Hebron, for fear that they would lead anti-Israeli protests after noon prayers on Friday.

The mayors expressed support for Hebron Mayor Fahd Qawasm and rejected a severe reprimand given him by Israel's West Bank military governor. Mr. Qawasm told a rally on Tuesday to resist the government decision "by all means at our disposal," remarks which the Israeli authorities regarded as incitement.

Windfall

Income tax cuts, which will require separate legislation. The other funds are to be used

to develop alternative energy sources and public transport and to help lower-income families pay their fuel bills.

Mr. Carter introduced the bill last April as part of his overall energy programme to reduce U.S. dependence on oil imports.

There was strong opposition to the tax. Oil companies and congressmen from oil-producing states said it would discourage increased domestic oil production.

"This bill is going to shut down many oil wells," Oklahoma Republican Henry Bellmon said just before the final Senate vote. "It's going to mean more taxes and more government, rather than more oil," Oklahoma Democrat James Boren said.

But Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia said "It's only fair and equitable to demand that some of the extraordinary profits of the oil companies be recycled."

In June, the House passed a \$277 billion bill but the Senate cut that to \$187 billion in December.

A conference committee of the two houses then split the difference between the two bills but needed another dozen meetings over three months to settle other details.

The tax will become effective retroactively from March 1, 1980. It will remain in full effect until at least January 1988, and will be phased out by 1990.

The bill also contains \$9.2 billion in tax credits to encourage the use of solar energy, heat pumps, gasohol (a blend of petrol and alcohol) and other alternative energy sources.

There are separate tax rates for newly discovered oil. Oil from existing wells and independently-owned wells which are producing 10 barrels a day or less.

سكزا على الفيل

Meet the minister: Muwaffaq Al Fawwaz

Jordan will shift emphasis to selective tourism

By Norah Barger
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—When influential friends approached Dr. Muwaffaq Al Fawwaz about eight months ago to ask him what post he would prefer if he could choose a ministerial position, he cited what may have seemed an offbeat choice for an anaesthesiologist: the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

However, he explained to the Jordan Times in a recent interview, "Whenever I have had free time I have always preferred reading about antiquities, not medicine."

He feels that the current First Biennial Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan which he is now attending at Christ Church College at Oxford will bring "prestige for Jordan and our history." There is a need for the latter, he said, to be written "properly and without bias." He cited the contemporary Jordanian historian, Suleiman Mousa who has written "Lawrence: An Arab View" as the model of the sort of historian of Jordan he would like to see more of.

In addition to being attached to history, the Ramtha-born minister is also well-travelled. After primary studies in his hometown and secondary studies in Irbid, he went to Istanbul to study medicine. He described his Turkish as "beautiful." His inclination towards it no doubt stems in part from the fact that his mother is Turkish.

He went on to Denmark and Scotland for his specialisation in anaesthesiology. While in Denmark in 1959, he met and married his wife, Clara Maria, She is what he calls "Jordanian." Danish by birth but a Jordanian citizen now. He praised her efficiency and skill "especially with children" in her work as an anaesthetist.

The couple have three sons. The eldest, Fawwaz, who is now in secondary school in Denmark, is something of a precocious polyglot. In addition to speaking Arabic, English and Danish, he also knows German, Swedish and Norwegian. His two younger brothers, Mazen and Walid, who

are in Jordan, are not far behind. In addition to speaking the first three languages, they also know French.

The 48-year old minister is an active sportsman. "Half my life is sports the other half is work," he said to emphasise the point. He considers himself "one of the old tennis players" of Jordan and spends four afternoons a week out on the courts. The minister of culture and youth recently appointed him chairman of the Jordan Tennis Federation which was founded in January. Dr. Fawwaz was also a founder of the Ramtha Sports Club.

On the three afternoons a week he is not playing tennis, one can find him practising the self-defence art of Tai-wan-do, which, as he described it, "combines karate and judo and is like Thai boxing." Although he learned the sport in Jordan, his experience with the Orient is not limited to it.

He is probably the first and only Jordanian doctor to have studied acupuncture. He received his qualification in Taiwan to practice this ancient Chinese science of relieving pain with strategically placed needles, but from his experience in trying to apply in Jordan, he feels the method is perhaps too exotic for people here to accept.

Dr. Fawwaz spent fifteen years working for the Ministry of Health before retiring from government service in 1972. He then worked as an anaesthesiologist for the Red Crescent and Al Ahli hospitals. In 1978, he was appointed to the National Consultative Council.

When asked about persistent rumours that he was still performing anaesthesiology despite his ministerial post, he was happy to clear up the record.

"During the first ten days or so after being appointed I had obligations I couldn't break," he said, "so I kept on working at the hospital. I miss my medical work sometimes, and if I am now called for an emergency, I will go." So far he has been called twice during the night for emergency operations.

As for his new post, Dr. Fawwaz said that he enjoys working with



Dr. Muwaffaq Al Fawwaz

people in the travel industry whom he described as "rich, cultured and well-behaved." He added that "tourism is not well developed and explored here and there is a lot more to be accomplished. He has a good team here at the ministry -- they are efficient, clever, young and ready to work."

Selective tourism

One of his priority jobs has been to promote tourism. He has already met with the chairman of Alia the Royal Jordanian Airlines, Ali Ghandour, and reached an agreement to have a tourist attaché placed in Alia offices in seven major Western cities. The attachés will come from the Ministry of Tourism and, he assured the Jordan Times, "they will be proper salesmen."

He also feels that Jordanians are not a very touristic-minded people, and thinks that the Ministry of Education should have a programme to educate people concerning the country's tourist attractions.

The new minister clearly favours a trend towards selective tourism in Jordan. "People in the travel industry in Greece and Spain have advised us to stay away from mass tourism and not repeat their mistake. Jordan is a country of two million people -- each year we have a million tourists."

Jordan must be careful, he said, of the litter, the burden on services and the pollution of cars and buses that mass tourism would cause in Jordan. "In Europe," he continued, "they have found that monuments wear away from millions of tourists touching them. Even the humidity caused by millions of people breathing has been shown to destroy paintings."

The solution for Jordan, he feels, is to cater to specialised tourist markets. Groups of birdwatchers, for example, can take tours to the Azraq wildlife preserve and divers could take Aqaba-only trips.

The insistence on selective tourism, which generally appeals to upper class tourists who stay longer and spend more money in Jordan than budget groups, does not, however, exclude low cost

tourism here, he feels.

He pointed out that last year camping grounds were established near Baqa and that a short while ago he sent a letter to the president of the High Commission of Tourism, His Highness Prince Muhammad, requesting permission to start another site at the Royal Shooting Club.

Dr. Fawwaz also sympathises with the plight of students who come to Jordan only to find there are no reasonably-priced places for them to stay. One alternative he has thought of for them is a programme whereby Jordanian families would agree to take in students for a week or so. Another tentative solution is to use schools that are otherwise closed during the summer session to house such students.

One spot which is currently being treated as an exception to the trend towards selective tourism is Aqaba. The ministry is studying ways to bring in more French groups in addition to the northern European tour groups already coming to the seaside resort because at present there is a great need for these large economical groups to fill Aqaba's hotels.

Dr. Fawwaz also hopes to promote more festivals and sporting events there to bring more tourists in the summer off-season.

Even Aqaba, though, might not be able to continue handling large groups for long due to the limited space on which to build hotels there. The minister considers it "a big mistake that Aqaba was shared with industry."

Summer tourism course to be held in Petra

AMMAN, March 27 (JNA) -- A one-month training course will be held in Petra this summer for the people who serve tourists visiting the rose-red city. Director of Tourism Michael Hamameh said here today.

He added that similar courses will be held every summer to train local residents in tourism-related services.

There are only five kilometres of beach available for tourism due to industrial sites and necessary port facilities. While there is a movement afoot to ban further industry from the city, he warned that "unfortunately more factories will probably be built there in the future."

The limited shoreline in Aqaba, however, will receive a boost from the Aqaba Lagoon Project. Work on it financed by private Saudi business interests will get underway this year. The project calls for the digging of a lagoon at the northern end of the city for the proposed marina and yacht basin. It also provides for two deluxe hotels and villas as well as yachting and other sports facilities.

Pollution of the shore and damage to the Red Sea's famous coral reefs caused by wastes from the phosphate and fertilizer industries

and oil spills from ships also concern Dr. Fawwaz. He is hopeful that a strict anti-pollution law that imposes severe fines, will be an effective deterrent once it is approved by the cabinet.

A recently-passed law also reflected the ministry's concern for the preservation of nature. Its department of National Parks became the Department of National Parks and the Environment. The law gave the ministry authority to punish those cutting down trees or destroying wildlife at touristic sites and parks. "We want to preserve our antiquities and parks and make these sites exemplars" of the preservation of nature, he commented.

Attracting Arab tourism

While keeping this idea in mind, the ministry hopes to develop the

Ajloun-Dibbeen mountain area as resort spot. The Japanese, who are involved with urban planning in the Irbid region, have done studies on a resort area that would be very popular, especially for summer," he said. It would include a ring road, a tourist village, a golf course, tennis courts, swimming pools and hotels.

He added that the King Talal Dam reservoir in northern Jordan could also be used for water skiing according to a recent study which showed this possible. In such a case, resthouses would be built by the dam and tour boats could ferry visitors from one side of the lake to the other. The study showed that swimming should not be allowed in the reservoir but a pool could be built.

At present in Ajloun, he said, "there are no hotel facilities or proper resthouse, but work will begin soon on a hotel there done by a British firm on a turnkey basis." If the area is to be made a successful resort spot -- which the minister hopes "will happen in my lifetime" -- he feels "we would have to depend on our Arab neighbours" for their patronage. He anticipates a special appeal in such a resort to those Arabs who don't like to go to Europe and previously took summer vacations in Lebanon.

Attention to Ajloun and other sites indicate a new emphasis in Jordan on regional tourism. There is definitely a market for this undeveloped area of Jordan's tourism if the 30,000 monthly visitors (mostly Syrians) to the bath houses in Himmeh -- a town just off the Yarmouk which is known for its therapeutic waters -- are any indication. Dr. Fawwaz would like to reopen the swimming pool there which was closed not long ago because a man -- who did not know how to swim -- was drowned in it.

Another site under development that caters to regional tourists is Zarqa Ma'in, the hot springs near Madaba. A feasibility study is underway for the possibility of a resort that would cater more to Westerners at Mazra'a, to the south. Reputed to be the site of one of Herod's palaces, it boasts 35 springs with potable water. Located on the edge of the Dead Sea, it now can be reached only by boat; a 12 kilometre access road would have to be built for the

resort. The minister is less sanguine about the development of hotel and therapeutic spas on the Dead Sea itself. "I hope to live to see it," he said, adding that planning is difficult in the area because of the constantly decreasing level of the Dead Sea.

New agreements with Iraq, he said, speaking on the possibilities of regional tourism, are opening the door for many Iraqi tourists to come here. He feels many of them would be interested in seeing the sites of the Yarmouk and Mu'ta (near Karak) battlefields where the first Islamic forays outside of the Arabian peninsula took place.

He feels Islamic antiquities in general have "not been given proper attention" and he would like to emphasise them in upcoming excavations. Among the areas he would like to concentrate on are Umm al Jimal, a mysterious Nabataean city carved out of black basalt that was abandoned around the seventh or eighth century, and the desert castles which date to the Umayyad period. He noted too that Umayyad ruins that need further excavation were recently discovered at Jerash.

The focus on Islamic sites, of course does not exclude Jordan's more traditional work on pre-Islamic archaeology. The up and coming sites, he said are Gadir and Pella, two cities of the Decapolis, the Hellenistic league of ten cities. The former is located in Um Qais and is being excavated in cooperation with a German team. Work is expected to end in 1985. Pella in the Jordan Valley, which has layers ranging from the Roman to Islamic eras, has been under excavation for three years by Jordanian, American and American teams. It will take another decade to complete the work, he said.

The old and glorious standbys, Petra and Jerash, will not be neglected. Work is now being conducted jointly with U.S. and Italian teams respectively. The ministry, Dr. Fawwaz said, will coordinate with film crews arriving here next spring to film Agatha Christie's thriller "Appointment with Death" in order to promote Petra, the scene of the murder. "We are waiting to receive confirmation from the film company -- we are ready to do everything we can to help."

Total tourist arrivals by quarter

Quarter	1978	1977	Per cent change
1st	272,791	226,040	20.7
2nd	272,175	232,310	17.2
3rd	296,411	260,585	13.8
4th	246,207	243,037	1.3
Total	1,087,584	961,972	13.1

Total arrivals

Region	1978	1977	Per cent change
Arab countries	808,862	754,086	7.2
Non Arab M.E. & Asian countries	101,457	83,033	22.2
European	83,539	70,157	19.0
American	78,468	42,553	84.4
Others	15,258	12,143	25.6
total	1,087,584	961,972	13.1

Tourism receipts and expenditure (million JD)

Year	Rec.	Exp.	Balance
1978	104.29	63.00	41.29
1977	95.21	35.10	60.11

TODAY'S WEATHER

It will be partly cloudy tomorrow with scattered showers and a rather slight drop in temperature. Winds will be southerly fresh. Aqaba it will also be partly cloudy with scattered showers. Winds will be southerly fresh with high seas.

	Overnight	Daytime
Amman	low 8	high 14
Aqaba	17	25
Serts	12	20
dan Valley	15	22

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	306.00/308.00
U.K. sterling	665.70/669.70
West German mark	161.20/162.20
Swiss franc	170.30/171.30
French franc	69.60/70.00
Italian lire	(for every 100)
Japanese yen	34.80/35.00
(for every 100)	
Dutch guilder	122.80/123.50
Swedish crown	147.40/148.30
Belgian franc	69.50/69.90
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Inflation brings worldwide credit squeeze

LONDON, March 27 (R) — Easy credit, a bulwark of prosperity in much of western society since World War II, is now under attack.

Expansion of living standards and the rise of personal expectations are being slowed and threatened through the effects of sharply climbing interest rates in major industrial countries, a Reuters survey shows.

NEW YORK — America's loan and credit card way of life is threatened. Mortgage rates are reaching 17 per cent, driving many ordinary home buyers off the market. Sometimes home purchasers watch helplessly as interest rates climb two, three or four per cent while a loan is actually being negotiated.

This has cut the demand for houses, and hit the building companies. Mr. Michael Sumichrast, chief economist of the National Association of Home Builders, says: "There's no question. The housing industry is shutting down."

One recent American home-buyer told Reuters: "When I picked up my loan application, the interest rate was 11.75 per cent, and when I submitted the application it was up to 12.5 per cent.

When I closed the deal it had just been raised to 15.5 per cent, but the bank let me have it at 14." This all took just two months.

Credit cards have been a useful way of beating inflation -- buying at today's price on credit and hoping that the interest payment will be less than would have been the case if purchases had been made later at higher prices.

But U.S. banks are no longer aggressively seeking new cardholders, said Mr. Kneeland Moore, a vice-president of the Mastercard credit card system.

According to Citibank economist Alan Murry, people are cutting back on their own use of cards. "They see interest rates rising, and they're getting scared."

LONDON — In Britain many home buyers are paying around 15 per cent interest on mortgages. Experts say first-time home buyers are having to lower their sights and those who had hoped to buy a small house are now having to buy a small flat, even a non-room apartment, instead.

But the British credit card business is still expanding. One company said its cardholders were increasing by about 45,000 a month.

A spokesman for National

Westminster Bank said small businesses were delaying their plans for expansion because of high interest rates.

BONN — West German house buyers have been hard hit, but motorists and other consumers in general seem less worried by the higher cost of borrowing.

Anyone can overdraw on his or her current account in West Germany by as much as twice their monthly salary without even asking the bank manager. Going into the red at present costs about 12.5 per cent in annual interest charges.

West Germany's discount rate, the cheapest form of finance for banks from the central bank, has gone up from four to seven per cent in less than a year. A spokesman for one of the biggest mortgage banks said this had already shown up in the economy with a marked reduction in the number of applications for house loans.

But as the vast majority of city-dwellers live in rented accommodation, increased interest rates only make the dream of owning their own house that much more unrealistic.

A Frankfurt banker said: "Purchases of consumer durables have

been affected and there is a trend towards more economical cars, but spending on holidays seems to be the same as ever."

For a car loan of DM 30,000 (\$16,200) — more than enough to buy a mid-range BMW or Mercedes saloon — a status-conscious West German would currently have to repay just over DM 1,000 a month. The effective annual interest rate is 14 per cent.

TOKYO — Despite a discount rate which has just risen from 7.25 to a record nine per cent, there are still strong fund requirements from Japanese enterprises and consumers, reflecting a steady economic recovery, Japanese city banks say.

But they report increasing difficulties for Japanese borrowers. Some small companies have been asked to defer borrowing plans for some time, one bank official said.

He said housing starts in Japan had fallen because of general inflation, higher land prices, and higher interest rates. Young people in the lower income groups were facing particular difficulties in getting suitable houses.

The Tokyo Commerce and Industry Research Company has predicted an increase in the next quarter of the number of business

failures and bankruptcies.

An unofficial estimate by major Japanese commercial banks said the latest discount rate will cost Japanese corporations at least an additional 1.4 trillion yen (\$5.6 billion) in interest burdens for fiscal 1980, starting next month.

ROME — Many Italian mortgage holders are paying around 16 per cent annual interest in a country where the discount rate has recently gone to 15 per cent.

Banking sources say house construction has been hit, but there are plenty of old houses for sale, although their generally high prices pose problems for first-time buyers.

Demand for credit to buy cars has shown no decline despite interest rates of around 20 per cent, market sources say.

The Italian credit card business has been largely unaffected by the interest rate rises, and is expanding steadily at about 10 to 15 per cent a year, banking sources say.

Italy's traditional dynamic small and medium-sized companies, used to high interest rates, are currently having to pay around 23 per cent on loans. These high interest rates and soaring inflation are cutting into their profit margins, causing concern about their future

resilience, industry sources say.

ZURICH — Switzerland is an exception. With interest rates still low — a discount rate of three per cent — there is no sign of a credit squeeze.

Ordinary people still find banks competing to grant house mortgages at four per cent, due to rise only by a modest half percentage point in April. Consumer goods credit is also easy.

Most Swiss, however, remain conservative in their spending habits, financing purchases from unusually plentiful savings rather than borrowed money. Credit squeezes, when they come, thus tend to affect ordinary people less than in many other countries.

SYDNEY — Another part of the industrial world to escape the squeeze so far appears to be Australia.

Home loans, offered at 9.5 per cent by savings banks and 10.5 per cent by building societies, are not difficult to obtain for the most part although a big demand for housing in Sydney means a wait of two to three months for funds.

In the last six months of 1979, starts of new buildings throughout Australia were up 13 per cent over the same period in 1978.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, March 27 (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at the close of trading on the London foreign exchange and bullion market today:

One sterling	2.1745/65	U.S. dollar
One Canadian dollar	83.93/96	U.S. cents
One U.S. dollar	1.9210/20	West German marks
	2.0995/1010	Dutch guilders
	1.8300/15	Swiss francs
	30.82/86	Belgian francs
	4.4300/302	French francs
	888/889	Italian lire
	249.85/95	Japanese yen
	4.4352/62	Swedish crowns
	5.1200/10	Norwegian crowns
	5.9635/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	470.00/475.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, March 27 — The market closed quietly lower on further evaluation of yesterday's U.K. budget, dealers said. At 1500 the FT index was down 11.5 at 423.6.

Government bonds ended up to ½ point lower. The effects of mid-morning rally were erased by fresh selling on feelings that proposed spending cuts were not sufficiently drastic dealer added. Oils were a weak feature in equities, falling as much as 16¢ after the 10 pct increase in petroleum revenue tax. Gold share and U.S. and Canadian stocks ended lower.

The announcement that traded options are to be treated on the same basis as share warrants for capital gains purposes has not yet affected options trade volume but is expected to increase it in the long run, dealers said.

BP and Ultramar fell 16p and 14p respectively. Leading bank were between 5p and 8p easier while Glaxo and Reckitt both the 6p. Results prompted falls in House of Fraser and Lucas of 5p and 1p respectively.

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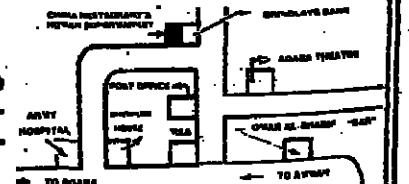
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مركز معلومات

To mediate Afghan dispute Cuban envoy leaves Pakistan with Zia's reply to Castro's offer

KABUL, March 27 (R) — Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli paid a secret visit to Kabul last week, according to diplomatic sources here, before a trip to Pakistan where he offered Cuban mediation in the Afghan crisis.

The Cuban envoy left Islamabad today for Havana, carrying a reply from Pakistan's military ruler, General Zia Ul Haq, to President Fidel Castro's offer of a peacemaker role in the dispute between Pakistan and the Soviet-backed government in Kabul. No details of the reply were given by either side.

The sources said Mr. Malmierca arrived here from Moscow last Wednesday, less than a week after Afghan Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost returned from Moscow.

The Cuban envoy arrived unexpectedly in Pakistan two days ago

as the first senior official from a pro-Soviet government to visit the country since the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Cuba is current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement and has so far made no comment on the Soviet intervention last December. Both Cuba and Afghanistan regard the Soviet Union as a natural ally of non-aligned states, a view opposed by most other members.

The official Afghan Bakhtar New Agency said Mr. Dost and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko agreed upon "practical questions concerning the terms of the temporary stay" in Afghanistan of the Soviet troops.

Both Moscow and Kabul have said that Soviet troops would remain in Afghanistan until "external threats" against the country ceased and until guarantees that there would be no further "aggression".

Afghanistan has accused the United States, Pakistan, China, Saudi Arabia and other countries of actively supporting Afghan anti-government insurgents.

Speaking at a Moscow banquet in Mr. Dost's honour, Mr. Gromyko said that the Soviet Union welcomed moves "to find political ways of solving the questions concerning Afghanistan".

However, both the Soviet Union and Afghanistan have said that there could be no solution behind the back of the Afghan Government and people — a

reference to the European Economic Community proposal to turn Afghanistan into a neutral state.

Pakistan has refused to recognise the Kabul government of Mr. Babrak Karmal, which came to power in a coup soon after Soviet troops arrived in Kabul.

It has called for the immediate withdrawal of the Soviet forces, and demanded that the Kabul government take steps to allow the return of up to 650,000 refugees now in Pakistan who fled the fighting and the government's left-wing policies.

Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have accused Pakistan of interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs, and of training and giving military aid to the insurgents fighting to topple the Kabul government.

Pakistani officials said President Zia told the Cuban envoy that Pakistan's position on Afghanistan was governed by the decision of the Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers which met in Islamabad in January.

The conference declared that Mr. Karmal's government was illegal and urged member states to impose a diplomatic and economic boycott while Soviet troops remained in Afghanistan.

The 36 Islamic states which took part in the meeting called for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops from what they described as a brotherly Muslim and non-aligned state.

Carter puts duties aside for rare campaign foray

WASHINGTON, March 27 (R) — President Carter last night made a rare campaign foray out of the White House, exhorting the faithful at a Democratic Party fund-raising dinner to unite and work toward victory in the November elections.

Mr. Carter has said repeatedly that he will not leave the White House to campaign for renomination while American hostages remain captive at the U.S. embassy in Iran, but he did appear at the annual \$1,000-a-plate Democratic congressional dinner.

For one night at least it was Senator Edward Kennedy, a day after his upset victories over Mr. Carter in primary elections in New York and Connecticut, who assumed the role of the man who wasn't there. The Senator had been expected to attend the dinner at the Hilton Hotel but he failed to turn up.

While Senator Kennedy's wins over the president were the talk of a reception which preceded the dinner, his name never once came up in speeches by Mr. Carter and by congressional leaders at the dinner itself.

Even House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, an old friend and close Massachusetts political ally, steered clear of mentioning the Kennedy name, while introducing Mr. Carter as a "brilliant" president and "a close friend whom I dearly love".

Mr. Carter made a joking reference to his twin losses — results which kept the Kennedy challenge alive.

"As Democrats and as politicians, I'm sure a lot of you are wondering what happened in New York and Connecticut yesterday," the president said. "So am I."

South Africa announces new budget

CAPE TOWN, March 27 (R) — South African Finance Minister Owen Horwood announced a "something for everyone" growth budget yesterday and an estimated 11 per cent increase in defence spending.

He told parliament his package of tax concessions, higher pay for public servants and the abolition of import subsidies "demonstrates to friend and foe alike the inherent strength of South Africa's economy and the exhilarating prospects it offers of rising standards of living for all sections of its population."

Tax concessions in Senator Horwood's budget totalled 909 million rand (about \$1.1 billion). Senator Horwood said pensioners, the aged, home-owners, farmers, small businessmen and all consumers would benefit. For blacks there would be special benefits, including better schools and homes.

Senator Horwood announced a record balance of payments on current account last year of 3.1

billion rand (about \$3.8 billion), or more than double the previous year's figure.

Among concessions made in the new budget were abolition of a 7.5 per cent import surcharge and of a ten per cent loan levy on companies and individuals.

Senator Horwood said his budget was designed to promote more rapid growth in the private sector and in the economy as a whole. The increase in government spending was limited to 14 per cent — the current rate of inflation.

He declared that official policy would not be swayed by over-optimistic assumptions about the price of gold, of which South Africa is the world's biggest producer.

Gathering storm

Senator Horwood presented his budget in the face of a gathering storm over a leaked army plan to stifle opposition to the government's defence expenditure proposals.

Opposition parliamentarians were incensed at news of the plan which they saw as an army threat to democracy in this white-ruled country. Mr. Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, the opposition leader, said recently that if the army became involved in politics, South Africa "will split from top to bottom. Not only between white and white, but between black and white as well."

The controversy erupted when the Johannesburg Sunday Times newspaper published a confidential document which instructed military departments to carry out a mission "to nullify the opposition's attack on the prime minister during the budget debate."

Prime Minister Pieter Botha, who is also defence minister and chief of the army, quickly disassociated himself from the document, which outlined ways of manipulating the news media to present the armed services in a favourable light.

Rival Chad factions battle in capital for sixth straight day

PARIS, March 27 (AP) — Rival Muslim factions in the central African nation of Chad battled in the streets of the capital today for the sixth straight day despite a ceasefire agreement reached two days ago, according to reports reaching Paris.

The special commission named to work out the details of the ceasefire met again today in the N'Djamena cathedral, located between the positions of the warring forces of President Goukouni Oueddei and Defence Minister Hissene Habre, the French news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported.

After a relatively quiet night, cannon, mortar and machine-gun fire broke out again about dawn and explosions were heard in the centre of the city, AFP said.

Despite all of the fighting, positions have changed very little. One faction sometimes moves a city block only to be driven out again the next day, the reports said.

Traffic has come to a standstill. Public water and electricity supplies have been cut. Buildings are bullet-pocked, some with large holes from mortars. The abandoned American embassy has a large hole on the first floor.

European evacuees reaching neighbouring Cameroon and France said there was fire every-

where when they left two days ago. The International Red Cross said there was an incalculable number of wounded, including civilians and children.

The ceasefire commission is made up of representatives from both Goukouni and Habre forces, along with the ambassadors of France and Egypt, the Saudi Arabian charge d'affaires, and Imam Ibrahim Moussa, head of Chad's two million Muslims.

Last reports said the forces of Col. Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue, vice-president and a southern Christian, had not been able to enter the city. Col. Kamougue reportedly is trying to join forces with Mr. Goukouni against Mr. Habre.

Tension has been building since the installation of a new government of national union late last year. That government was created by an agreement signed in August between all 11 military and political factions in the country.

However, Mr. Habre has accused Mr. Goukouni and his allies of being pro-Libyan and failing to implement the Lagos accords. Mr. Goukouni charges that Mr. Habre is the main obstacle to implementing the agreement and demilitarising the city.

Schmidt, Thatcher to discuss Britain's EEC budget dispute

BONN, West Germany, March 27 (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Schmidt flies today to London for two days of talks during which he hopes to convince Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to show more flexibility in Britain's demand for a reduction in its European Community (EEC) payments.

Mr. Schmidt, who will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and other senior officials, is also expected to discuss the situation in Afghanistan and other international topics with Mrs. Thatcher.

But West German officials, in a briefing for reporters, indicated Britain's budget dispute with the other eight EEC members would be at the centre of the discussions.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said Mr. Schmidt would sound out Mrs. Thatcher's willingness to make concessions in such issues as EEC fishing policy and access to North Sea oil as part of an overall solution to the budget question.

But the officials added that no breakthrough was expected during the talks. They also expressed scepticism that a formula could be worked out before the European summit tentatively scheduled for sometime next month in Brussels.

Britain's dispute with the eight other EEC members centres around its request for a \$2 billion reduction in its \$4.3 billion assessment for the Community budget.

Although Britain is the third-

poorest member of the EEC, it and wealthy West Germany are the only members that contribute more to the Community than they receive in subsidies and other concessions.

West German sources said Mr. Schmidt was not ready to play the Argentine judge rejects request to free Peron

BUENOS AIRES, March 27 (R) — An Argentine federal judge today rejected a request to free ex-president Maria Estela Peron, detained since the military overthrow her government four years ago last Monday.

Judge Pedro Narvaiz ruled that Mrs. Peron, 49, was ineligible for freedom under a law that says a person who has served in preventive detention two-thirds of the sentence must be released.

In his plea for her freedom, lawyer Julio Arriola said two of the four charges laid against Mrs. Peron carried six-year jail terms, thus making her eligible for release.

But Judge Narvaiz said one of the charges, of illegally transferring a government building to the Peronist Party, carried a maximum term of ten years.

Other charges dealt with alleged embezzlement of government funds by Mrs. Peron, who has been held under house arrest in three separate places since her overthrow.

role of mediator in the dispute, although he is expected to pass along Mrs. Thatcher's comments to French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. The French have been among the strongest opponents of Britain's request.

During a visit last week by Danish Prime Minister Anker Joergensen, Mr. Schmidt told reporters that the issue of British payments could only be solved as part of a "package deal" in which London also made concessions.

Government sources said the concessions would include requiring Britain to join its EEC partners in a common fisheries policy, assuring freer access to Britain's North Sea oil, and inclusion of British lamb in the common agricultural policy.

W. Germany pledges consideration of Greek interests in aid given to Turkey

ATHENS, March 27 (R) — West Germany has assured Greece that the amount of military and financial aid it gives Turkey this year through the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) will take Greek interests "firmly into consideration," an official statement said here today.

The statement said the assurance was given by West German Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer after a first day of talks with Greek Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis on Bonn's economic assistance to Greece and Turkey.

Mr. Matthöfer, who arrived yesterday for a two-day visit, goes on to Turkey after visiting Saudi Arabia later today.

The statement said Mr. Karamanlis had drawn attention to the need of not upsetting the ratio of Bonn's military aid to Greece and Turkey and ensuring that economic aid to Turkey did not reverse "the existing correlation of forces between the two countries."

Mr. Matthöfer assured Mr. Karamanlis that the West German Government "had taken Greek interests firmly into consideration when laying down its policy for this region," the statement said.

In Paris yesterday, OECD nations failed to agree on the size of an aid package to help Turkey cope with its huge burden of fore-

El Salvador moves closer to civil war

SAN SALVADOR, March 27 (R) — The murder of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero of El Salvador has pushed this troubled country one step closer to civil war and sparked anxiety throughout Central America, a traditional social powder keg.

El Salvador's landowners and rightist military groups, who branded Monsignor Romero a communist for his calls for better distribution of wealth and land, will shed few tears for the outspoken priest's death.

But millions of peasants and poor people saw the archbishop as a champion of human rights, as a symbol of their struggle for social justice.

Diplomatic observers here said Monsignor Romero might prove to be El Salvador's Chamorro, a reference to Nicaraguan newspaper editor Pedro Joaquín Chamorro, whose murder sparked the civil war that led to the overthrow of rightist dictator Anastasio Somoza in neighbouring Nicaragua.

Nearly a year after the Sandinist-guerrilla victory in Nicaragua, El Salvador is veering towards civil war.

Monsignor Romero said a few days before he was shot down on Monday that more than 600 people had died in El Salvador since a reformist civilian-military junta took power last October.

Poverty, inflation, unemployment, repression and widespread dissatisfaction with the military — the seeds that ousted Mr. Somoza — are glaringly present in overcrowded El Salvador.

Five million people, most of them poverty-stricken, are packed into a country with a 33 per cent unemployment rate, and a 3.5 per cent annual population growth. Half the population is illiterate.

However, leftist guerrilla groups in El Salvador are not united. There is no family dynasty in power and the civilian-military junta is grappling with reforms, although without success so far.

"This (the archbishop's death)

could be the spark to blow up the tinderbox El Salvador has turned into the past few months," warned Mr. José Napoleón Duarte, a Christian Democrat leader and member of the government.

Mr. Duarte said that many Salvadorans "are rebelling against the oligarchy and rightist economic groups after 58 years of oppression."

He said the left-wing groups could spawn violence but were unable to launch an open insurrection.

A wave of violence, including kidnappings of foreign businessmen and diplomats, has caused foreign investment to dry up.

In a desperate bid to avoid civil war, the Salvadorean Government this month implemented agrarian and banking reforms, but none of the other major problems facing the country appears to have been tackled.

"Unemployment is dangerously high, the country lacks money reserves and has been unable to pay its \$1.6 billion foreign debts," said a businessman.

Widespread concern

Fears of a spillover of El Salvador's violence are causing concern in the rest of Central America. Only Costa Rica, the showcase of democracy in the region, is confident of remaining aloof.

The first Central American country likely to be affected is Guatemala, where leftist and rightist groups are waging a bloody underground war.

A report from an Amnesty International said 2,000 people had died violently in Guatemala between January and October of last year.

The most dramatic event in Guatemala this year was the takeover of the Spanish embassy by a group of militant leftist peasants. It ended in the death of 39 people, burned in a fire when security forces burst into the building.

ign debt and make an economic recovery.

The 24-nation organisation agreed instead to meet again April 15. Secretary-General Emilie van Lennep said he was sure the next meeting would be successful.

The delay, he told reporters, was for technical reasons. He cited Canada's change of government and Japanese doubts about the size of its contribution to the fund.

But the OECD was still committed to helping Turkey and supported its current financial programme, he said.

Turkish Premier Süleyman Demirel's new government announced in January an economic recovery programme which included a 33 per cent devaluation of the Turkish lira, price rises for fuel and other essentials, and incentives to foreign investment.

Afghanistan and women's rights

KABUL -- The Afghan authorities seem determined to work towards full emancipation of women, whatever the consequences.

In a country as conservative as Muslim Afghanistan, with its deeply-rooted religious traditions, equality of the sexes is an anathema to many.

But the Marxist government of President Babrak Karmal has signalled that a 50-year-old struggle to free women will be continued and perhaps even intensified.

The government-controlled Kabul New Times newspaper said recently that Afghanistan must work harder to give men and women equal opportunities, no matter what problems might ensue.

"No country can build a welfare society without making great sacrifices," it said in an editorial.

Opposition to Marxist rule in Afghanistan partly stemmed from reforms to give women a better deal after the revolution of April 1978.

The first Marxist government of Noor Mohammad Tarakki set a minimum legal age for marrying — 18 for boys and 16 for girls.

The bride's price, paid to her father by the bridegroom, was fixed at a maximum of 300 Afghanis (\$7).

A major adult education drive was launched for both men and women. These and other measures, including agrarian reform and a ban on usury, met with strong resistance, particularly in rural areas where 85 per cent of Afghanistan's 15 million people live.

The reforms stand against centuries-old traditions which local religious leaders, who are more influential than government officials, strongly defend.

The Kabul New Times, which now features a regular women's page, pointed out that Islam recognises equal rights for men and women in both education and business.

King Amanullah, who ruled Afghanistan until 1929, was the first to fight for women's rights. He lost his throne as a result.

The king outlawed polygamy for government officials and declared that women were free to discard the veil which, he said, hid half the Afghan nation. He also decreed that Afghans residing in Kabul should wear Western dress in public.

The measures provided a rallying point for opposition from religious leaders and tribal chieftains. The king's army was defeated and he was forced to abdicate. The reforms were abrogated.

Other Afghan rulers who later tried to emancipate women also ran into trouble.

In 1959, religious leaders tried to stir up a revolt in Kandahar in southern Afghanistan, ostensibly over the issue of women's liberation. And in 1970, Muslim clergymen held month-long demonstrations in Kabul against the mini-skirt, even attacking girls with acid. Women were unofficially unveiled during the reign of King Mohammad Zahir Shah, overthrown in 1973 when Afghanistan was proclaimed a republic.

But not all women chose to discard the veil. A large number can be seen in Kabul today wearing the chadri, a head-to-toe garment with only a latticed opening in

front of the eyes.

But Western dress is the norm and is becoming more common in the countryside where the chadri is impractical for work in the fields.

But in the villages, women are still discriminated against, confined to domestic tasks and kept uneducated.

In some parts of the country fundamentalist Muslims prevent girls from attending state schools. The fundamentalist rebel groups which are leading the fight against the Kabul government from Peshawar in Pakistan are active in the movement against female emancipation during previous governments. The new hardline among them want to return women to the veil and demand that all government officials wear national dress.

The first public school for girls was opened in Kabul in 1921, but 97 per cent of Afghan women remain illiterate, according to official statistics. The illiteracy rate for men and women is more than 80 per cent. A lack of teachers and facilities means that only about one fourth of children in the seven to 14 age group receive education.

Of these only one girl attends primary school for every seven boys. The ratio at university about one girl for every three four male students.

Even among educated people most marriages are arranged. Brides are expensive despite the 300 Afghanis limit, which is proved hard to enforce.

The bride price can reach 30,000 Afghanis (\$700), roughly the annual salary of a junior official, and sometimes more.

REUTERS



An Irish Special Branch officer (centre), armed with a sub-machinegun, stands with two uniformed colleagues outside the house prior to Mr. McGinn's surrender. (AP wirephoto)

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "مكتبة جامعة القاهرة"